

We owe a great debt of gratitude to those who have served in our military forces. These men and women sacrifice a great deal to protect the American ideals of freedom, democracy, and to defend our national welfare. In appreciation, Congress must support and advocate policies that ensure we do all we can to honor their service.

We need to increase the amount of resources devoted to our veterans and expand the veterans' programs we currently have in place. This means more money for veterans' health care, giving our troops a much needed pay raise, and ensuring that the families of our brave service men and women are taken care of while soldiers serve abroad.

San Antonio has a rich military history. The military tradition contributes irreplaceable elements to the history and cultural diversity of our city. I am very proud of the Service Members and their families, here and around the world, who make such profound sacrifices to the benefit of our nation.

Time and again, Congress has failed to keep promises to the men and women who serve in our military by inadequately funding programs for military personnel and veterans. This is particularly troubling at a time when we are asking so much of our troops around the world, who will someday be veterans themselves.

We need a renewed investment to address the needs of veterans and their families. We owe them for their courage and valor in service to the United States.